



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Rodriguez

Office: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4610 | **Cell:** (502) 330-5063 | **E-mail:** nancy.rodriguez@education.ky.gov

INPUT SOUGHT ON FEDERAL WAIVER RENEWAL APPLICATION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking feedback on its request for a four-year renewal of the federal waiver granting the state flexibility from certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 – reauthorized in 2001 as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

In September 2011, the United States Department of Education (USED) offered each state the opportunity to request flexibility in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity and improve the quality of instruction.

Kentucky's waiver, first granted in 2012, allows the state flexibility in determining Adequate Yearly Progress, implementing school improvement requirements, and allocation of federal funding, among other things. It also has allowed Kentucky to operate with one comprehensive system of accountability, Unbridled Learning, for both state and federal purposes. In 2014, USED granted Kentucky a one-year extension of its waiver, which expires at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Late last year, USED offered select states that are meeting their commitments to the original timelines and principles of ESEA, including Kentucky, the opportunity to apply for a four-year waiver renewal and to participate in an expedited review process.

The Kentucky Department of Education has posted the state's [renewal request](#) (in redline format as required by USED) on the KDE website and welcomes public comment prior to submission to USED at the end of January. The changes in the document are reflected in red font, with new language underlined and language to be deleted denoted with strike-throughs.

Comments and feedback may be sent to Mary Ann Miller, executive director of the Kentucky Board of Education, at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov. Comments will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, January 28.

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